

What is different is that the President has a strong record on the science of this issue, and the Republican leadership does not. The President called on the National Academy of Sciences for advice. The Republican leadership has ridiculed the Academy as political because it does not like their scientific judgment. The President continues to seek the advice of experts through the National Academy of Sciences and through advisory committees. The Republican leadership continues to fret about what a fair and accurate census might do to their attempts to manipulate the redistricting process.

Right now, the Census Monitoring Board is a political entity because the Republican leadership made it that way. But it does not have to continue in that vein. Let me put forward four principles that, if adopted, could make the monitoring board a bipartisan operation.

First, all personnel hired to work for the monitoring board other than the executive directors, have to be hired with the agreement of both executive directors.

Second, all work done by board employees has to be approved by both executive directors.

Third, any press release, publication, or statement attributed to the board has to have the approval of both chairs before released.

Fourth, any funds expended by the board have to be approved by the two chairs.

If the Republican appointees on the Board will agree to these four principles, the board can proceed in a bipartisan manner.

If they refuse to agree with these principles, it is a clear indication that their agenda is to conduct partisan political activities and try to use the monitoring board to legitimize their partisan agenda.

I ask the Chairman of the Census Subcommittee to join me in calling for the Census Monitoring Board to accept these four principles.

His willingness to join me in supporting these principles will also send a signal that he too is interested in fact and not fiction.

LET US REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, as we near the dawn of a new millennium, many people have begun reviewing the events of the past 1,000 years. In the year 1000, Europe was only just beginning to rise from the Dark Ages, but the advances of the enlightenment were still centuries away. Life was still brutish and short, marked by random violence and terrible purges from time to time. We like to look at history and see a steady improvement in the condition of mankind. We would prefer to believe that humanity today bears little resemblance to the near barbarism that marked the last millennial change.

Sadly, as we narrow our focus and look back at the 20th century, we see that many of the horrors that marked

the 10th and 11th centuries still exist in our world. This century has seen horrors on a scale that even the cruellest leaders of the beginning of this millennium could not have imagined. More than 100 million people have been savagely murdered in this century. It is disheartening that many in the present day continue to hide or diminish these events of sheer terror.

In our lifetime, we have seen the genocide of Stalin, of Mao, of Hitler, of Pol Pot, and a large number of lesser known despots; the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews.

The practice of genocide certainly was rooted in the efforts of the Turks to destroy the Armenian people 83 years ago. At that time, the Ottoman Empire began a movement that would ultimately kill more than 1.5 million Armenians, and it left deep scars upon those who survived, scars that continue to exist today.

What is so disheartening is that not only did this awful travesty occur but today the effort to cover it up or diminish this awful event continues. Mankind is capable of forgiveness, but it requires an acknowledgment by the guilty party of that guilt and a desire for contrition. Unfortunately, the government of Turkey wants to escape its guilty by blaming the Ottomans and has made no effort at reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey not only denies responsibility for its past action but has continued efforts to cause hardship in Armenia by blocking U.S. assistance from reaching Armenia and generally trying to obstruct closer relations between the United States and Armenia. Turkey is our ally and has helped further the security of the United States and Europe. It would be unfair to leave this unacknowledged. But it would also be unfair to ignore a serious issue that does affect our mutual relations.

By accepting its responsibility, Turkey can help show that, while horrible events still take place, mankind has advanced to the point that we acknowledge and atone for these awful actions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my appreciation to the Members of this body who have done so much to prevent the world from forgetting the atrocities of 83 years ago, and to the many Armenian American organizations throughout the Nation, and in particular California, for their good work on behalf of the Armenian American community and to foster closer ties between the United States and Armenia.

Let us remember. Let us never forget.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today several of my colleagues and I join 12-year-old Hunter Scott in his outstand-

ing efforts to correct an injustice dealt to the skipper and crew of a World War II battle cruiser. The U.S.S. *Indianapolis* was torpedoed and sunk just before the end of the war, in the U.S. Navy's worst disaster at sea.

Hunter Scott, a 7th grader at Ransom Middle School of Cantonment, Florida, researched the story of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* as a school history project. This week, today, he came to Washington to ask Congress to exonerate Charles McVay, the ship's captain, who was court-martialed for the loss of the ship.

Hunter has been able to do what adults have been unable to do for 53 years. He has drawn attention to the story of the *Indianapolis*, and now we are preparing to give the crew and captain of the ship the recognition that they so rightfully deserve.

The U.S.S. *Indianapolis* was sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1945 after delivering the components of the atom bomb to Tinian Island in the Pacific. Only 316 of the 1,916 soldiers who served on the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* survived to be rescued.

The crew was adrift at sea without lifeboats, food, or water for 4½ days. More than 500 were eaten by sharks or succumbed to injuries or the elements. During this time, the failure of the ship to arrive in port at the Philippines went totally unnoticed. The ship's Captain, Charles B. McVay III, was convicted in a 1946 court-martial. He was the first U.S. naval officer ever to be tried and convicted following the loss of his ship in combat. McVay committed suicide in 1968.

Captain McVay's conviction was based on the fact that he failed to zigzag the ship, but his superiors never gave him information that a Japanese submarine was patrolling the area. In addition, the Japanese captain of the submarine said before the trial that he would have sunk the ship even if it had been zigzagging.

Evidence suggests that the Navy made McVay a scapegoat for the embarrassing loss of the ship and tragic death of most of the crew. Because McVay's court-martial severely tarnished the ship's reputation, the crew of the *Indianapolis* has gone without recognition for 53 years.

Today, my colleague and I introduced legislation to reverse this injustice to Captain McVay and the crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. The enactment of the bill would exonerate Captain McVay of the responsibility for sinking the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. It would express the sense of Congress that the court-martial conviction of McVay was a grave injustice. It urges the President to grant a posthumous pardon to Captain McVay and expresses the sense of Congress that the President not only award a Presidential Unit Citation to the crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* in recognition of their courage and fortitude but it waives any time limit applicable to such a situation.

Twelve of the survivors of the sinking of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* came to

Washington to join Hunter in his crusade. After the ship sank, they endured almost 5 days adrift in shark-infested waters, where two-thirds of their shipmates perished from shark attacks, hunger, thirst, and exposure.

Let us, at long last, understand that justice delayed is justice denied and recognize in a very patriotic fashion the kind of sacrifices that were rendered at that particular time.

□ 1915

The Walt Disney Channel on Sunday has a very special and unique presentation about the *U.S.S. Indianapolis*.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COX of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KLINK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS RE-MEMBERS ARMENIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last year on April 25th, 1997, I attended a remembrance for the 1½ million men, women, and children who were persecuted by the Turkish Ottoman government and who perished during 1915 to 1923. The commemoration, held at the Worcester City Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, honored the 60 survivors of the Armenian Genocide who are still living and residing in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts. I had the privilege of meeting 14 of them, and nothing I can express will ever compare to their words or memories.

In the past year I have had the privilege to meet with many Armenian Americans in discussions not only about Armenia, but also on how to strengthen our communities, our schools, our health care, and the welfare of our children. I have learned a great deal from the Armenian community in central Massachusetts and I hope that they will continue to share with me their views and their insights.

I also had the opportunity to spend a memorable afternoon at the Armenian Youth Federation Summer Camp in Franklin, Massachusetts, also in my district. There I met and spoke with young Armenian Americans who come to this camp from all around the country. It is clear that the sons and daughters of Armenian heritage will continue to speak about their family's history and tragedy, and they will greatly enhance life in America with their spirit, intelligence and humor.

It is as much out of my respect for them, these young people, that I feel privileged to add my voice to today's commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Every year we gather not just to honor and commemorate the victims, but to stand witness and declare that we will never forget this horrific tragedy. What happened during those years was more than just a series of massacres carried out by the Turkish Government during a time of instability, revolution and war. Whole communities were wiped off the face of the map. Over 1½ million men, women, and children were deported, forced into slave labor, tortured and exterminated by the Ottoman Government of Turkey.

It was deliberate. Millions of Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland of 3,000 years and eliminated through massacres and exile. It was a carefully executed plan of extermination. It was the first example of genocide in the 20th century, and it was the precursor to the Nazi Holocaust and the other cases of ethnic cleansing and mass extermination that are the nightmares that haunt and characterize our own times.

Unlike Germany, the Government of Turkey, however, has never acknowledged its attempted annihilation of Armenians. Instead, successive Turkish governments have engaged in a global campaign of denial and historical revisionism.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we must remember, why we must always remember. This is why we must speak out, why we must always speak out. To forget history dishonors the victims and the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and it encourages tyrants everywhere to believe that they can kill with impunity.

Over 30 nations, from Australia to Russia to Lebanon, have adopted resolutions officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Earlier this month the Senate in Brussels, Belgium, approved a resolution recognizing and commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, as an American and a Member of Congress, I am profoundly angry that the United States of America has yet to recognize the actions taken by the Turkish Government between 1894 and 1923 as acts of genocide against the Armenian people. What other name could we possibly give to actions that reduced the Armenian

population in the Ottoman Empire from 2,500,000 souls at the beginning of World War I to the fewer than 80,000 who remain today inside of Turkey? Yet every year the administration fails to acknowledge that a genocide took place in order to appease our Turkish allies.

As a Member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia, I am a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 55, legislation that honors the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and calls upon the United States Government to recognize the genocide and encourage the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge and commemorate the atrocity carried out against the Armenian people.

As a Member of that caucus, I work with my congressional colleagues to strengthen support and assistance to the people of Armenia; to support the Democratic process and elections recently held in Armenia; and to support and aid the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabagh who must daily confront the hostility and violence of Azerbaijan and the threat of another genocide.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 1,400 Armenian families who reside in my district, I will continue to work and speak on these issues in the 105th Congress. I will continue to honor the memory of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and I will continue to work for the freedom and human rights of Armenians everywhere.

I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), for their leadership on Armenian issues and for coordinating these special orders today.

CRISIS IN AMERICAN EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, April 19th, there appeared on the front page of the Orlando Sentinel, my hometown newspaper, an extraordinary article with an extraordinary insight into the nature and the scope of the problem with public education that we are facing in the United States.

I think that this is an article which should be read by all of our colleagues, and I call it to our colleagues's attention.

I also at this time, so that I do not forget to do it later, although I am going to be referring to this liberally, would like ask that the entire text of this article and the accompanying text of a teacher's diary, an insert on the front page of this newspaper, be introduced into the RECORD following my remarks today.

Mr. Speaker, back a couple of years ago, the Florida legislature passed a law requiring that every student who graduates from high school in the State of Florida had to have a 2.0 average throughout their high school studies. A 2.0 on a four-point scale means a